

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 -- 29. (canceled)

30. (new) An umbrella comprising:

a central axis-defining shaft;

a plurality of ribs made of plastic, having inner ends secured to the shaft and outer ends and movable between a closed position extending axially along the shaft and an open position extending radially from the shaft;

a flexible canopy spanned over the ribs;

an actuator movable axially along the shaft;

respective spreaders made of plastic and each having an outer end pivoted on a respective one of the ribs and an inner end pivotal on the actuator, the canopy and the ribs in the open position forming a spring element acting as a damping member that resists inversion and that has a spring strength such that only a sectoral inversion is possible and that it forces an automatic restoration by the damping member when wind pressure drops;

a slide shiftable along each of the ribs adjacent the outer end thereof;

respective abutments fixed on the ribs for limiting sliding of the slides toward the respective outer rib ends; and

respective brace struts made of plastic and having outer ends pivoted on the slides and inner ends pivoted on the respective spreaders between the inner and outer ends thereof, the brace

23 struts being capable of resisting compression and tension, the  
24 plastic ribs being of such elasticity that they bend elastically in  
25 the open position and a tension of the canopy on the elastically  
26 bent ribs and on the brace struts is such that only a sectoral  
27 inversion of the frame with the canopy and the ribs is possible and  
28 a complete inversion of the canopy is inhibited circumferentially,  
29 the abutments being mounted on the respective ribs at a spacing  
30 from the respective rib outer ends that is effective via the  
31 respective braces in the open position to curve the respective ribs  
32 so as to prestress the frame when open in a direction resisting  
33 inversion of the canopy.

1 31. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 30 wherein a  
2 length of each rib between its outer end and its pivotal connection  
3 with the outer end of the respective spreader is at least equal to  
4 a length of the respective brace strut plus a length of the  
5 respective spreader between its pivotal connection with the  
6 respective rib and with the respective brace strut.

1 32. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 30 wherein the  
2 spreaders have a diameter of 2 to 6 mm.

1 33. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 30 wherein the  
2 spreaders have a diameter 3 to 4 mm.

1                   34. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 30, further  
2 comprising  
3                   a set of second ribs between the first-mentioned ribs;  
4                   respective second spreader between the second ribs and  
5 the actuator, there being no brace struts on the second ribs and  
6 spreaders.

1                   35. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 30 wherein the  
2 slide is formed as a tube engaged around the respective rib and  
3 forming a pivot.